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Summary record of the 34th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 10 November 2011, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Donckel (Vice-Chair) ..... (Luxembourg)

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In the absence of Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Donckel (Luxembourg), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 16: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.21)

Draft resolution on information and communications technologies for development (A/C.2/66/L.21)

1. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.21 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.39)

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/66/L.39)

2. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.39 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(d) Commodities (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.34)

Draft resolution on commodities (A/C.2/66/L.34)

3. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.34 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.30)

Draft resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/66/L.30)

4. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, given the importance that those countries attached to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, they had decided to submit procedural draft resolutions under agenda item 19 so as to allow more time to prepare for the Conference. The Group of 77 and China hoped that the subject-matter of the draft resolutions would be taken up in depth at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

5. Introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.30 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, she said that those countries hoped that all Member States would be represented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the level of Heads of State or Government. The Group of 77 and China was very concerned about the lack of resources in the trust fund for the Conference and hoped that donors would make further contributions to the fund in order to ensure the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and at the Conference.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.26)

Draft resolution on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/66/L.26)

6. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.26 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that small island developing States were particularly vulnerable to climate change, especially such phenomena as rising sea levels and extreme climate events. Although the challenges were not exclusive to those States, for some low-lying States the threat was existential. An urgent response was therefore needed. The international community must meet its commitments under the Mauritius Strategy and must ensure that the concerns of small island developing States were adequately reflected in the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.27)

Draft resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/66/L.27)

7. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.27 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.28)

Draft resolution on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/C.2/66/L.28)

8. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.28 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.44)

Draft resolution on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/C.2/66/L.44)

9. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.44 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.29)

Draft resolution on the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/C.2/66/L.29)

10. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.29 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.45)

Draft resolution on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/C.2/66/L.45)

11. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.45 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.42)

Draft resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/C.2/66/L.42)

12. **Mr. Archondo** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.42, said that Cuba had become a sponsor. The objective of the draft resolution was to promote debate, enhance ethical awareness and create the practical tools needed to help recover the balance of nature. Up until recently, human activities had been relatively benign, but the rapid changes that were taking place were resulting in such phenomena as climate change, damage to the land and coasts and to the marine habitat, higher extinction rates of species, and significant losses of tropical forests. The draft resolution sought to determine what changes were taking place and what the consequences would be for human civilization, as well as what could be done to avoid even greater damage. To that end, the Secretary-General was requested to convene an interactive dialogue between the United Nations and the scientific community, to coincide with the observance of International Mother Earth Day in 2012. The draft resolution aimed to promote an understanding that all inhabitants of the Earth lived in an interconnected world and shared a common destiny, so that every action affected the Earth and all humanity.

(i) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.33)

Draft resolution on sustainable mountain development (A/C.2/66/L.33)

13. **Mr. Muñoz** (Peru), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.33, said that Afghanistan, Honduras, Madagascar, the Philippines and Viet Nam had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution aimed to highlight the increasing awareness that mountains were fragile ecosystems of global importance. Mountains covered about one quarter of the Earth's surface and provided a livelihood for about 12 per cent of the world's population as well as essential goods and services to over half of humankind, yet many of the world's most impoverished people lived in mountain regions. There was therefore a need to ensure the environmental health of mountain areas within the existing international policy framework.

(j) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.31)

Draft resolution on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/C.2/66/L.31)

14. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.31 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolutions submitted under the chapeau of agenda item 19

Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/C.2/66/L.25)

15. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.25 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on developmental benefits of biodiversity (A/C.2/66/L.32)

16. **Ms. Miranda** (Peru), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.32, said that it was important for all States to be aware of the economic, social and environmental benefits offered by the Convention on Biological Diversity and to ensure proper management of those benefits in order to achieve sustainable development. The role of biodiversity in economic growth and development was becoming increasingly evident; in that regard, it was important to achieve an effective synergy between modern science and local and indigenous knowledge. Member States must ensure that biodiversity was incorporated into national policies and strategies in the context of a comprehensive approach to development, in order to promote the objectives of the Convention.

Draft resolution on international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan (A/C.2/66/L.35)

17. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.35, said that Algeria, Armenia, Benin, India, Iraq, Latvia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the list of sponsors. Her delegation viewed the support by a large number of sponsors as recognition by the international community of Kazakhstan's historic contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In August 2011, Kazakhstan had commemorated the 20th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site when, for the first time in world history, a major test site had been shut down. Kazakhstan had also voluntarily abandoned its nuclear-missile arsenal, at that time fourth in the world in terms of capability. Over a period of 40 years, some 468 nuclear tests had been conducted there, and much of the population of the region was still suffering from the negative consequences of nuclear radiation.

18. Over the past decade, her Government, along with the international community, had allocated at least US$ 4.5 billion to help rehabilitate the region; although much had been accomplished, the severity of the problems still required continuing international attention. There was a growing understanding that there was a need to shift the focus from recovery to long-term development, and that the challenges could best be addressed through a holistic, comprehensive approach and through a strong partnership between her Government, the United Nations and all development partners.

Draft resolution on the protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development (A/C.2/66/L.38)

19. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.38 on behalf of the Pacific States and the other sponsors, which had been joined by Israel, Monaco and the Philippines, said that coral reef ecosystems around the world were under threat; about one fifth of coral reefs had already been damaged, and 35 per cent were predicted to be lost over the next 20 to 40 years if no change occurred. Some 341 coral reef species were currently threatened, and it was predicted that through the combined impact of climate change, ocean acidification and other human impacts, 90 per cent would be threatened by 2030, if no protective measures were taken. Over 275 million people, mostly in developing countries and island nations, depended directly on coral reefs for their livelihoods; world fisheries supported 170 million jobs, and more than 1.5 billion people relied on marine resources for their protein intake. The vulnerability of the Pacific small island developing States to economic, social and environmental challenges and their lack of capacity to address them were major constraints to sustainable development. The draft resolution therefore urged States to identify coral reef management as an urgent sustainable development priority.

Draft resolution on agricultural technology for development (A/C.2/66/L.41)

20. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.41, said that it was widely acknowledged that agriculture lay at the heart of sustainable development. Strengthening agricultural sectors in the developing world was crucial to building resilient communities that would be better equipped to respond to the challenges posed by poverty, food insecurity and climate change. The draft resolution therefore called for the international community to collaborate and to make increased efforts in the development, dissemination and implementation of agricultural technology as well as in research and capacity-building.

Agenda item 20: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.36)

Draft resolution on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/66/L.36)

21. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.36 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/66.L.23)

Draft resolution on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/66.L.23)

22. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.23 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.24)

Draft resolution on science and technology for development (A/C.2/66/L.24)

23. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.24 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.18)

Draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/C.2/66/L.18)

24. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.18 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on promoting the efficiency, transparency and accountability of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions (A/C.2/66/L.16), *submitted under the chapeau of agenda item 21*

25. **Mr. Brandstatter** (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.16, said that Denmark, Greece, Honduras, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Monaco, Portugal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine had joined the list of sponsors. The sponsors strongly believed that building strong institutions was a central challenge of development and that supreme audit institutions played a critical role as they helped promote sound financial management and thus accountable and transparent government.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*)

Draft resolution on agriculture development and food security (A/C.2/66/L.17)

26. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.17 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on the International Year of Quinoa, 2013 (A/C.2/66/L.19)

27. **Mr. Archondo** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.19, said that Argentina, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution took into account the adoption by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in July 2011 at its thirty-seventh session, of resolution 15/2011, in which it recognized the nutritional value of quinoa and called for the

proclamation of the year 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa. Quinoa, a traditional crop grown by indigenous peoples for some 7,000 years, had a high protein content: it was the only vegetable to provide all the essential amino-acids and, from that point of view, was superior to wheat, barley and soy and could be compared favourably with milk. It could therefore contribute to the food and nutritional security of current and future generations and to the eradication of poverty and malnutrition, especially in developing countries.

Draft resolution on the International Year of Family Farming 2014 (A/C.2/66/L.20)

28. **Mr. De Vega** (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.20, said that Bangladesh, Brazil, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Niger, Peru, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Togo and Viet Nam had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution was based on resolution 16/2011 of the Conference of FAO, in which the Conference had called for the proclamation of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. Of the more than 3 billion people living in the countryside worldwide, 1.5 billion laboured as farmers on less than five acres of land, and the majority of people living in extreme poverty were agricultural labourers, small farmers and fishermen. The progressive deterioration of farm income and its effect on rural economies had fuelled massive migration towards cities, with all the attendant problems. Accordingly, farmer's organizations had called for the celebration of the International Year of Family Farming in order to promote prosperous and sustainable family agricultural development in rural and fishing areas on all continents, especially in developing countries. The declaration of the International Year would help in finding ways and means to deal with the ongoing challenges to family farming.

Agenda item 26: Towards global partnerships (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.43)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards global partnerships" (A/C.2/66/L.43)

29. **Mr. Herczynski** (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.43, said that Monaco had become a sponsor. In order to overcome the many global challenges that were faced and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, it was essential for the United Nations to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector and civil society. The United Nations was a unique partner for the global business community in the promotion of sustainable development and in poverty eradication, and it must continue to encourage private sector actors not already doing so to support the development agenda. The Global Compact and the many partnerships involving United Nations agencies, funds and programmes continued to play an important role in promoting dialogue and cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector with a view to furthering the shared goals.

Agenda item 29: People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.40)

Draft resolution on people's empowerment and development (A/C.2/66/L.40)

30. **Ms. Melon** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.40 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 61: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.22)

Draft resolution on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/C.2/66/L.22)

31. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.22, said that Azerbaijan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea-Bissau, Malaysia, Namibia, Turkey and Viet Nam had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution reflected the findings in the report of the Secretary-General in document A/66/78-E/2011/13 that the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to deepen the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian people and was associated with illegal exploitation of their natural resources.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.